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California GARDEN

July/August 2009

Volume 100 No. 4 \$4.00

Ornamental Grasses



California Garden
Retrospective: 1969–1988

Water Smart Gardening

Garden Expressions

Featuring Selected Regional Artists

Sunday, August 23

11 AM – 6 PM



Pearl Fryar, the star of "A Man Named Pearl," is coming to Quail Botanical Gardens. During Garden Expressions, an annual event featuring the area's finest artists, Pearl Fryar of international acclaim will be turning ordinary plants into fanciful creations. The Gardens will be buzzing with artists of all kinds - sculptors, painters, potters, fiber artists, gourd designers, and more - a rare opportunity to buy from the best. There will also be pockets of music and fine food.



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Quail Botanical GARDENS



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California GARDEN

THE MAGAZINE FOR HANDS-ON GARDENERS AND FLORAL DESIGNERS

July/August 2009, Volume 100, Number 4

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California Garden

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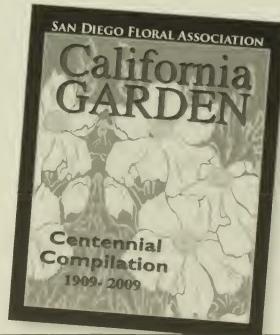
President's Letter

At the time of this writing, planning for two big Floral Association events is underway. The Historic Garden Tour will have come and gone by the time this letter is published, but it is impressive to see the time and effort involved in hosting this event. There are many jobs to be done to make the tour a success and room for every volunteer skill or interest. At the center of it all is the agreement of some very generous homeowners to open their gardens to tour-takers. Do you have a garden with a history? We would like to know about it, either as a candidate for a future garden tour or a write-up in our magazine.

The second Floral Association event of the summer will commemorate the centennial of *California Garden* magazine. Our magazine debuted in July 1909 and we will launch our centennial book, *California Garden: Centennial Compilation 1909-2009*, in July 2009. The book presents a selection of articles from the past 100 years of the magazine. The retrospective review of *California Garden*'s first century allows us to marvel that "everything old is new again." As water shortages change the way we garden and bring to mind the historic water problems of San Diego, we find leadership from *California Garden* as a long-time champion of water-wise gardening and the use of native plants in landscapes. As slow food, home gardens and fruit growing emerge as the latest trends, we look back at *California Garden*'s many practical articles on producing food. As Earth Day makes news, we celebrate our magazine's early voice of support for conservation and the preservation of our canyons and native trees. For more information on our July book launch, check our website (www.sdfloral.org) or call the Floral office (619-232-5762).

As we celebrate the century mark of our magazine, the *California Garden* Centennial Fund Campaign continues. We have gratefully received some generous gifts that will help produce our centennial book and support the future of our magazine. If you have not yet had an opportunity to show your support, your gift in any amount is very welcome.

Nancy Carol Carter
President, 2008-09



California Garden Centennial Fund

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* Donors at these levels and higher will receive a limited edition, specially bound copy of the *California Garden* centennial book to be published by the Floral Association in 2009. This keepsake volume reprints a lively selection of articles from the past 100 years of the magazine and permanently records key events in San Diego Floral Association history.

You may address your donations to: Centennial Fund c/o San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684. Make checks payable to: SDFA (note "Centennial Fund").

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

GET A JUMP ON FALL AND ENROLL IN THESE TWO CLASSES EARLY!

SEPTEMBER 10

GOULD NECKLACE BOTANICAL ART

Learn how to make a necklace using a jewelry gourd, with hummingbird and flower designs. Materials cost is included in the class price.

Cost: \$20 members; \$25 non-members
Instructor: Kathy Page

SEPTEMBER 17

CREATIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

In this creative design class you will learn how to make arrangements using material from Australian native plants grown by the instructor.

Cost: \$10 members; \$15 non-members
Instructor: Pauline Sechi

It's easy to register!

Just fill out this form (or a copy of it) and mail it to San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado, #105 San Diego, CA 92101-1684

PAYMENT FOR CLASSES MUST BE INCLUDED.

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All classes run from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and are held in Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. Coffee and sweets will be provided; bring your own lunch and clippers. Call Kathy Page for more information about San Diego Floral Association workshops at 619-422-2845. To register and pay, call 619-232-5762. Classes are limited to 10 persons and must be prepaid.

In This Issue

July and August here resemble January and February in snowy climes. Like the cold, heat limits work in the garden. So as temperatures rise, San Diego gardens are best simply enjoyed during summer.

One unavoidable chore, though, is watering. In this year of water cutbacks, when, what and how much to water are more important than ever. Those looking for guidance and inspiration will find both in this issue of *California Garden*. In "Grown-up Grasses," John Greenlee chronicles the popularity of these eye-catching plants and shares his picks for our gardens. We also visit a new Water Conservation Garden exhibit—a "modern meadow" of graceful ornamental grasses—and we share some picks from a newly revised list of beautiful waterwise plants, ideal replacements for that very thirsty patch of lawn. (We have ideas on saying bye-bye to turf, too.)

Before you retire to a shady garden nook with some ice-cold lemonade, peruse our book reviews. There's no better companion for gardeners in summer than a book on a topic so dear to the heart and stimulating to the mind.

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Flowers for Your Hair

A step-by-step guide to creating a simple floral head wreath

Head wreaths are worn as a decorative hairpiece for a range of events, and are a whimsical accessory for warm summer evening get-togethers. The wreaths can range in size, color and material but floral designer Becca McCormick of Flower Girls (www.flowergirls.biz), has found it easiest to make them out of spray roses. McCormick has been working at Flower Girls for three years—she started working there because she was interested in wedding floral designs—and was gracious enough to give us a walkthrough on how to create a simple yet stunning head wreath.

List of Materials

- One bunch of spray roses
- One roll of floral tape
- One bag of thin floral wire
- One spool of desired ribbon

Directions

Step One: Cut the individual rose buds or blossoms from the main stem, leaving each bud or blossom stem about one half inch long.

Step Two: Cut the floral wire to approximately six inches in length.

Step Three: Wire each rose bud or blossom by sticking two pieces of wire in an "x" pattern right below the bud or blossom on the rose stem. Fold the wire down and spin the floral tape from the base of the bud or blossom to the end of the wire. (You'll go beyond the short rose stem.) This should cover the wire and rose stem completely and make a slightly longer artificial, flexible stem for the rose.

Step Four: Start with one rose and place the next one about halfway down the previously wrapped rose stem and tape them together with the floral tape. Continue this process until the wreath is to its desired length.

Step Five: Bend the wreath to make a circle and attach the excess "stems" from the previous roses to the front of the wreath by taping between the flowers.

Step Six: Tie the desired amount of ribbon between the two connecting roses to insure extra stability.

Step Seven: Keep the head wreath refrigerated until used, then wear and enjoy! —Allison Hooker



Floral wreaths add whimsy to any occasion.

Coprosma: A Plant That Shines

Coprosma *repens* is a native of New Zealand. You may know it by its common name, mirror plant. It is so named because of the plant's reflective quality. The oval leaves are thick and slightly succulent. The upper side of the leaves is a rich shiny green, while the under side is a matte cream color. It has a delightful appearance and has been a common landscape plant for many years.

Appreciating the glossy shine is important in placing Coprosma in the landscape. Coprosma almost seem artificial, and some people might have a hard time finding a home for them in their landscape, as the high gloss look and the strong colors almost make them look as though they were plastic. The magic, however, is that they are not plastic, but rather strong plants with moderate to low water needs.

Lush, the shiny leaves often give the appearance of being wet. The light texture of the foliage is bright, and the light texture is a design element that is wonderful to observe. Even if colorful, many plants seem to absorb light, giving off a dull appearance; however, hold a lavender branch next to a Coprosma branch and you'll see a big difference in how the Coprosma leaves reflect light.

Coprosma grow slowly, so they are low maintenance, and they are versatile, working well as ground covers, small hedges, specimen plants and potted bonsai. They grow well along the coast, so they can take some salt spray. They like sun, good draining soil and moderate watering to get established. Once established, they will require low to moderate watering. It will also do well in partial shade.

Coprosma species are found throughout the Pacific, including Hawaii, with about 45 different species occurring in New Zealand. (In New Zealand the common name for *Coprosma repens* is Taupata.) Besides *Coprosma repens* there are other species used in cultivation. The flowers are usually insignificant with male and female flowers growing on separate plants. Some make edible berries.

The genus Coprosma is in the *Rubiaceae* family. Other plants in this family include gardenia, sweet woodruff, bedstraw and coffee. (The seeds of Coprosma have been used as a coffee substitute.) A notable feature—also found in other genera of the *Rubiaceae*—is that the leaves contain hollows in the axils of the veins; in these, and on the leaf stipules, nitrogen-fixing bacteria grow.

The word Coprosma has a lovely sound; you might think that it means something beautiful, but this is not so. The genus was named Coprosma because of an unpleasant odor that came from crushing leaves of some species, such as *Coprosma foetidissima*. The offensive smell led to the combining of two Greek words: *kepros*, meaning dung and *osme*, meaning smell. We have crushed several leaves of many cultivars of *C. repens* and thankfully none of them share this named quality. —John Noble



Photo: John Noble

Three Coprosma plants—'Evening Glow,' 'Pink Splendor' and 'Taupata Gold' together—between some Mexican feather grass, *Nassella tenuissima*.

New Coprosma Cultivars

Retaining the shine, new cultivars of Coprosma come in many colors. Some varieties have larger two-to-three inch oval leaves, while others have small half-inch linear leaves. Some favorite cultivars include:

- **'Cappuccino'** (four feet high by three feet wide)—conical growth with tiny chocolate colored leaves.
- **'Cutie'** (two feet tall and wide)—small green leaves with dark black and brown tones.
- **'Evening Glow'** (five feet tall and wide)—leaves are rich red, maroon, yellow and shades of green.
- **'Karo Red'** (three feet tall and wide)—green leaves with blackish red tones.
- **'Kiwi Gold'** (two feet high by three feet wide)—a groundcover with small light green and yellow leaves.
- **'Marble Queen'** (three feet high by four feet wide)—dark green centers and light cream edges, often speckled with green dots.
- **'Painter's Palette'** (four feet tall and wide)—leaves are a colorful mixture of copper, brown, orange, cream and green tones.
- **'Pink Splendor'** (six feet tall and wide)—leaves that are a mixture of pink, green, yellow, orange and maroon shades.
- **'Rainbow Surprise'** (four feet tall and wide)—a cultivar with small pink and yellow-green leaves.
- **'Taupata Gold'** (three feet tall and wide)—yellow cream and light green leaves with a dark green center.

Favorite Tool: Japanese Grass Sickle

One garden tool after another has won my heart over the years. I confess, I am fickle. About ten years ago, however, I found a soulmate when I acquired my first fork-tongued weeder with padded grip. It was love at first sight. This weeder allows me the satisfaction of extracting the full roots of the most stubborn weeds and fulfills this one and only job faithfully. We spent many happy hours together in the garden and completely bonded.

Imagine my surprise when a sharp-looking stranger from a foreign land turned my head a couple of years ago. It was a typical dalliance, begun while attending an out-of-town conference. Between meetings I walked around in the Little Tokyo Historic District of Los Angeles. Never able to pass up a hardware store of any national origin, I was soon poking around in bins of Japanese gardening tools. I picked out a pair of the ultra sharp high-quality pruning shears I'd always meant to buy and a simple wooden-handled tool with a curved blade. I did not know if the second tool had a designated function, but it looked sharp and potentially useful.

The tool was later identified as a Japanese Grass Sickle, sometimes called a Japanese Gardener's Sickle, hand scythe or serrated blade sickle. In Japan, this traditional hand tool is known by the name *nokogama*. It is advertised for use in cutting back plant stems, roots or small branches and twigs. As a sickle, it also can be used to trim back ornamental grasses and clear high weeds.



Photo: Nancy Carol Carter

This Japanese import is now my favorite gardening tool. It edged out the weeder in my affections when I discovered the value of the sickle in maintaining big, tough succulent plants. I am not comfortable wielding a sharp machete, but the Japanese sickle is small, lightweight and maneuverable. Yet, it almost effortlessly cuts through the largest and most fibrous agave leaves. Unwanted succulent pups can easily be sheared off above or below ground. In fact, all the tough-armed succulents in my garden can be trimmed up in a trice with this elegantly simple tool.

The razor sharp serrated blade is high carbon steel and has kept its edge since purchase, without being sharpened or receiving any special care. Generally, carbon steel blades are maintained simply by dry storage and cleaning after use. If dampness is a problem, the blades may be oiled for extra protection. The tool cost less than \$10 and is more easily found over the Internet or in Asian stores and shopping areas than in mainstream garden stores. —Nancy Carol Carter

Friend or Foe: Thrips

Thrips (*Thysanoptera*) are tiny, slender insects with fringed wings. They are so tiny (.5–14 millimeters long) that you may skip over them while searching for pests in your garden. Also known as thunderflies, thunderbugs, stormflies and cornlice, thrips can range in color from translucent white to yellowish, dark brown to black. With over 5,000 different identified species of thrips, it is difficult to determine if the one in your plant is a friend or a foe.

For instance, there are some beneficial thrips, which include black hunter thrips, banded wing thrips and sixspotted thrips. However, even though there are some friends out there, many thrips—often in the *Thripidae* family—are classified as pests. These garden foes are plant feeders that scar leaves and petals and even distort plant parts.

More than 20 plant-infesting viruses are transmitted by non-beneficial thrips, and these viruses are considered to be some of the most damaging plant pathogens around the world. The viruses are spread by how the thrips feed. They first puncture the plant and then suck out its cell contents. Plants damaged by thrips can show tiny scars on the leaves, have their growth stunted or have their leaves turn papery and distorted. Thrips can cause scabby scarring on avocado skins and create "color breaks" on flower petals. If thrips infect roses, flower buds may become deformed and even fail to open. It is safe to say that these particular thrips are garden foes.

It is very difficult to control thrips populations because they are so small and slender and tend to hide in tiny crevices when they feed. It is important to know that the presence of thrips does not necessarily mean that feeding and damage will result. If damage is noticed there are some biocontrol agents that can be used. Parasitic wasps, predatory mites (*Anystis agilis*), egg parasitic wasps (*Megaphragma mymaripenne*) and minute pirate bugs (*Orius spp.*) are all natural enemies of pest thrips. While these are their natural enemies, little or no research has been conducted on the effectiveness of releasing thrips predators in gardens. Because of this, many growers are forced to occasionally use pesticides in fields and greenhouses. Regular pruning can help control thrips populations without relying on pesticides. —Alyssa Holderbein

Dig
in!

Save Water

Convert Your Lawn into a Native Landscape

With water rationing here, many of you are eyeing your lawn as an obvious place to save water. Why not convert that freshwater marsh into a native landscape? Turf can use 30 gallons of water per square foot per year versus about two to six for a native landscape! The following steps can help you achieve an easy-care landscape full of color, fragrance, butterflies and birds.

Step 1: Removing the existing turf. If you have lots of Bermuda, then spray the lawn with an herbicide while it is lush. Then irrigate and repeat as new shoots come up. This may have to be done several times. Otherwise, use a spade or sod-cutter to strip the turf about two inches down, which also removes some rich topsoil (amendments are bad for natives).

Keep in mind that permanently removing grass can be challenging—in some cases, you may have to dig down 18 inches to remove stubborn stolons—so before beginning you might want to take a class from Quail Botanical Garden or The Water Conservation Garden, or consult an expert on different options, as the methods outlined above is just one of many that may work for you. (Full disclosure: The herbicide, irrigate and strip method described here is the one my business, California's Own Native Landscape Design, uses successfully.)

Once your lawn is stripped away, try composting the old grass for a veggie or rose garden. Spot removal or spraying may still be required later. Grass specific herbicides are excellent for this.

Step 2: Adapt the irrigation. Natives do better with rainfall-like overhead watering. MP Rotator nozzles by Hunter (www.hunterindustries.com) are stream rotors that will retrofit most sprinkler heads. They irrigate like gentle rain.

Step 3: Incorporate features. Now is the time to install paths, rocks or other garden features.

Step 4: Plan your planting. Use evergreen natives like Ceanothus and manzanita to form the backbone of your garden. Colorful perennials such as Penstemon, seaside daisy, monkey flower and California fuchsia are best used on the edges, where the color can be seen and, most importantly, the blossoms can be easily reached for deadheading after blooming. These same perennials can be added for quick fill and color between the backbone plants. Because most perennials are ecological pioneers, they can help burn up excess fertility (left over from the lawn) while readily establishing the mycorrhizal fungal partnerships so important to a successful native landscape. Eventually, these pioneer plants are overgrown by the evergreen foundation plants, thus leaving the perennials along the edges where you want them. Native nurseries can help with plant selection.

Step 5: Plant your garden. You can plant native plants anytime of the year. If you plant in the summer, water a bit more, as you would any other summer planting.

Step 6: Finishing up. It is important to water each one-gallon plant with about five gallons of water to remove air pockets. Apply a granular pre-emergent herbicide to help control annual weeds, followed by three to four inches of shredded redwood bark pulled back three inches from each plant. (You can use only the bark, but be prepared to weed). Water about once per week with the equivalent of roughly one-fourth inch of rainfall; that's about 30 minutes for an MP Rotator. Summer plantings may require watering about every five days until the advent of winter rains, when you can let Nature take care of the plantings. Starting the following spring try pushing the watering interval out to 10 to 14 days. Have fun! —*Greg Rubin*



Photo: Greg Rubin



Photo: Don Walker, from *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates: The Trees of San Diego*, courtesy of The San Diego Horticultural Society

Trees of Balboa Park: Gold Medallion Tree

The Gold Medallion Tree (*Cassia leptophylla*) matures to a height of 20-25 feet with an open round canopy.

The leaves are pinnately compound with 8-12 pairs of narrow leaflets. The leaflet shape is elliptic and they are folded up slightly which may explain the name "*leptophylla*" from the Greek words for butterfly leaf. The trees are bare for a short time during the coldest months of the year and then leaf out again in early spring with bright green foliage.

From July through September, deep yellow flowers (3 inches wide) appear on 6-8 inch long clusters at the tips of the branches. The flowers are followed by four-sided, dark green seed pods that can reach lengths of up to 16 inches. The seed pods turn dark brown, contain winged seeds and stay on the tree for several months. Gold Medallion Trees are planted throughout the plaza at the entrance to the Old Globe Theater, in front of the House of Hungary and at the Kate Sessions Balboa Park Nursery.

Excerpted from Trees and Gardens of Balboa Park (2001; \$25) and reprinted with permission from Kathy Puplava, Paul Sirois, the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department and Tecolote Publications.

Delicious Plants

Select “mouthwatering” flowers for a kid-friendly themed garden

There are many plants with delicious sounding names. These plants are not edible but many are named after food products or desserts. Planting plants with delicious sounding names could be a great way to get kids excited about gardening. It might also be fun for those who are just young at heart and want to add a fantastical element to their garden.

Roses

Many gardeners consider roses a must in their gardens. Roses beautify the yard, providing a light and sweet scent. A mostly sunny location and a little gardening know-how is all you need to get started growing these fine flowers.

For a “delicious garden,” you’ll definitely want to start with ‘Hot Cocoa,’ a floribunda. It has smoky chocolate-orange blooms with a sweet fragrance, grows about four feet tall in a nicely round bush habit and has a high resistance to fungal diseases. You might also consider ‘Cherry-Vanilla,’ a large-flowered grandiflora that produces fragrant, double, pink, cream-centered flowers.

Daylilies (*Hemerocallis*)

These rugged perennials will endure in a garden for many years with little or no care. They adapt to a wide range of soil and light conditions, establish quickly, grow vigorously and survive winters with little or no injury. Each daylily plant produces an abundance of flower buds that open over a long period of time. There are many varieties, a wide range of flower colors and the flowers continue during the heat of the summer. Some daylilies are named after different types of cupcakes—some “yummy” ones include: ‘Marmalade Cupcake,’ ‘Tangerine Swirl Cupcake’ and ‘Strawberry Cream Cupcake.’

Coral Bells (*Heuchera*)

Those without coral bells are missing out on a vast palette of purples, grays and oranges. This plant comes in all sorts of colors, shapes, sizes and growing needs. Some do well in shade, others can thrive in full sun. They are drought tolerant, very cold hardy and evergreen.

They also come in some scrumptious sounding varieties. ‘Crème Brûlée’ coral bells are composed of peachy-orange leaves that brighten as the season progresses. Brown sugar highlights transform the foliage in cold temperatures; it is topped with creamy yellow flowers in late June. ‘Tiramisu’ coral bells are a very showy *H. villosa* hybrid and represent a breakthrough in *Heuchera* breeding. In both spring and fall, the chartreuse foliage has a heavy smattering of brick red coloration that radiates out

from the midrib of each leaf. During the summer, the leaves lighten to chartreuse and develop a light silver overlay. ‘Tiramisu’ has a fantastic compact habit, so it looks great in containers or as edging in a bed.

‘Dolce Key Lime Pie’ is a newer cultivar of coral bells. It has beautiful chartreuse to yellow leaves with pink to white flowers. This plant can thrive in both full sun and shady locations. ‘Strawberry Swirl’ coral bells have ruffled green leaves overlaid with silver veining—a lovely background for the gorgeous strawberry pink flowers. What sets this plant apart from the others are the very tall (30 inch) stalks of coral-pink blooms, which give off a mild fruit aroma.

Begonias

One of America’s favorite flowers, begonias are popular due to their variety. Prized for their flower as well as their showy leaves, begonias also are easy to grow. ‘Buttered Popcorn’ begonia (*Begonia semperflorens*) would be a great, “appetizing” addition to any garden. This begonia has white flowers and it is unfazed by heat and humidity. The plant can grow in the sun or shade, requires average water and is easily maintained.



Oncidium 'Sharry Baby'

Orchid

‘Sharry Baby’ (*Oncidium*) may not sound like something you can eat, but its fragrance is to die for. When you smell this flower, you’ll be hit by a wonderful chocolate scent floating up from dozens of tiny blossoms decorated in festive splashes of chocolate and white. Even though this plant is not named after a type of food, it does have a sweet smell that would fit right in to any “delicious” garden. —Allison Hooker

2009 California Garden Reader Survey

The editors of *California Garden* would like to hear from you!

What kinds of stories or topics would you like to see in upcoming issues? More coverage of succulents? Less coverage of common garden pests? **Your thoughts matter!**

You may return this page or a copy of this page by mail to the SDFA office, addressed Reader Survey c/o *California Garden* Editor, San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684. You may also visit our website—www.sdfa.org—and fill out the survey there.

Make your voice heard and let us know what you'd like to see on the pages of upcoming issues!

Check topics that would be of interest:

- Water-wise gardening, drought-tolerant perennials and native plants
- Floral design or arrangement
- Succulents
- Pest management (Bugs, bacteria, fungi and critters)
- Irrigation systems
- Annuals and cutting flowers
- Theme gardens (English, Tropical, etc.)
- Patio or container gardens
- Perennials (Non-Mediterranean)
- Exotics (Non-Mediterranean)
- Trees (Care, species, pruning, etc.)
- Landscape design
- Fruit and vegetable cultivation
- Tools of the trade (Gardening or floral arranging tools)
- Techniques for using amendments, fertilizers, etc.
- Winter gardening
- New plant introductions
- Profiles of local nurseries, growers, etc.
- Local conservation efforts
- Profiles of Balboa Park's horticultural endeavors

Other topics to cover:

Would you like to see more human-interest stories?

Would you like to see travel attraction stories? (For instance, information on daytrips or overnights to horticulture or floriculture-related locations)

Would you be interested in seeing a Question and Answer page where an expert answers reader-submitted questions every issue?

Would you be interested in seeing a Letters to the Editor page where reader-submitted comments, and replies from the editors, are run every issue?

Are you interested in reading horticulture-themed articles that are directed at intermediate-to-expert level gardeners or botanists?

Are you interested in reading horticulture-themed articles that are directed at new gardeners?

General suggestions for improvement:

Thank you for your participation!

California Garden Retrospective

Looking back at *California Garden*: 1969–1988

By Nancy Carol Carter

An Aquarian Exposition, better known as Woodstock, drew nearly half a million music fans in 1969. The event has come to symbolize the hippie movement of the late 1960s and '70s and to mark the emergence of youth culture and a period of dramatic social change. Although geographically and culturally distant from Woodstock, San Diego was not immune to the upheavals and transformations that followed in the next two decades.

California Garden stayed on an even keel during these volatile years while reflecting a contemporary consciousness. Editorials in 1970s defined the newly fashionable word "ecology," and urged *California Garden* readers to "think green" by recycling, avoiding the use of plastics, using recycled paper and considering the environmental impact of packaging before purchasing consumer goods.

Fads and trends of the times found a place in the magazine. In 1972, Donna Scott gave instructions for creating a terrarium. In 1975, Paul Canaday wrote on organic gardening and Rosalie Garcia described newly developed community vegetable gardens. Both the resurgent popularity of house plants and the renewed interest in hydroponic gardening were discussed in the Sept.-Oct. and 1975 issue, by Betty Newton and Rosalie Garcia respectively. Experimental directions in floral design are documented in illustrations for

"Arrangements Without Flowers" (Jan.-Feb. 1974) and "Designing With Strelitzia" (Jul-Aug. 1975). Barbara S. Jones wrote informatively and dispassionately about *Cannabis sativa* in "Marijuana." Some first-time appearances include articles on mobile home gardens, formal Chinese gardens, microwave cooking, the Vietnamese celebration of *Tet*, computers for garden club use and saving drought-stressed gardens by using gray water from bathtubs.

These wide-ranging topics show that the magazine was neither staid nor out of touch, yet editors from 1969 through 1988 successfully resisted the total emersion in pop culture. Serious treatment was accorded topics such as the continuing value of palm trees in the San Diego landscape (point and counterpoint reported in Jan.-Feb. 1974) and the alarming decline of tree populations due to housing developments and highway projects. Core content flowed from the pens of some of the magazine's all-time best writers; Rosalie Garcia, Barbara Jones, Helen Witham Chamlee and Ada Perry were among the

most productive contributors. While covering new developments of the 1970s and '80s, *California Garden* benefited from writers capable of maintaining its tried and true combination of practical gardening and horticulture education, relieved by comfort reads and the occasional dash of whimsy.

- TIMELINE**
- 1969:** Man walks on the moon; Old Town San Diego becomes a state park
 - 1970:** First Earth Day; Environmental Protection Agency established
 - 1972:** Clean Water and Clean Air Acts passed; DDT banned
 - 1975:** Vietnam war ends; Bill Gates founds Microsoft
 - 1981:** Inaugural space shuttle flight; San Diego Trolley dedicated
 - 1988:** San Diego hosts its first Super Bowl and America's Cup Yacht Race



THEN • NOW

California Garden noted organizational accomplishments with pride. In 1972 the San Diego Floral Association won official recognition as a garden center from the National Council of State Garden Clubs. Ten years later, the title of an article by Sharon Siegan foretold an impressive milestone: "Diamond Jubilee: Seventy-five Years of Floral Association History."

A publication schedule of six issues per year was maintained from 1969 to 1988 with little change in the size or appearance of the magazine. Black and white covers featured generally well-executed line drawings and the occasional photograph. A few 1974 issues were printed in brown ink, but the sepia experiment was quickly abandoned. Photographs within the magazine show fashionable long hair and at least one gardener in a leisure suit. The price of *California Garden* rose during these years of high inflation from 50 cents to 75 cents, and then finally to \$1 in 1986.

The regular columns so noteworthy in previous decades all disappeared, except for the book review section and the "Calendar of Care," which was renamed "Now is the Time" in January 1971. Fewer different types of businesses advertised in the magazine during this period, leaving the ad space to nurseries, florists and related businesses.

Throughout the 1970s and '80s, *California Garden* continued to beat the drum for native plants and environmentally sound practices. Helen Witham Chamee wrote "Go Native" and an article on native bulbs. Martha H. Rosenberg warned floral designers against using the 200-250 increasingly rare plants listed by the California Conservation Council. Not only did the plants deserve protection, but flower judges were detracting points when spotting the listed plants. Now that we can shop for organic produce in most grocery stores, Larry Sisk's 1971 title "Natural Insecticides" has a very contemporary ring.

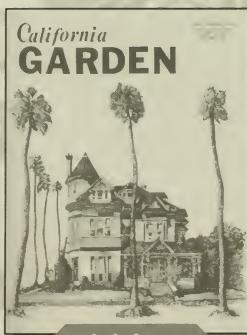
One of the challenges of creating a magazine devoted to horticulture and floriculture is that today's readers come to this magazine with more outside information about these topics from more alternative sources than ever before. They come with potentially hours of television exposure to the homes and gardens of celebrities. Readers have dwelt inside the minds of the famous garden designers who star in reality programs. National garden magazines and garden books today are lavishly illustrated and expensively printed. And let's not even mention the plethora of gardening-centric websites and blogs!

Yet, despite the seemingly stiff competition for attention, the editors of and contributors to San Diego Floral Association's 100-year old magazine continue to take great joy and pride in creating a publication that occupies a unique niche amongst the media saturation noted above. Because *California Garden* is focused on this region and this climate only, editors and writers can concentrate on creating content that addresses our Mediterranean climate in a way that national magazines and TV shows can't.

For example, our editors derive a wealth of inspiration from past issues of the magazine. Time and again, we look back to articles that are 20, 50 or 95 years old and find information that deserves to be updated for new readers. To illustrate: *California Garden* has taught past generations how to grow their own food in San Diego. When Rosalie Garcia wrote about growing carrots, squash, strawberries, root vegetables and tropical fruits, she was not thinking about the slow food movement and had never heard of a carbon footprint. But she sure knew how to produce food locally. Because of her past work, and work by today's editors and contributors alike to update this information, an entirely new generation of *California Garden* readers will benefit.



Mar-Jun
1975



Jul-Aug
1983



Jul-Aug
1986



Sept-Oct
1988

Grown-Up Grasses

Ornamental Grasses Come of Age

By John Greenlee

No other group of plants has come onto the Californian gardening scene as quickly as ornamental grasses. In the early 1980s, only blue fescue and pampas grass could be found in the western nursery trade. Starting in the late '80s, and continuing throughout the '90s, however, more than three hundred varieties of ornamental and native grasses flooded the market. Before these grasses entered the American nursery trade, very few gardens had grass in any form other than turf. Grass was something that golfers whacked balls on or that cows ate.

Today, ornamental grasses have arrived in a big way. Their amazing ascent can be credited to their versatility and adaptability in the garden. Grasses come in a variety of colors and textures, and range in size from miniatures and groundcovers to giants and tall background plants. Many grasses, like the *Pennisetums* and *Muhlenbergias*, have showy flowers. Some like *Panicum* and *Miscanthus* add blazing fall color and striking winter effects. No matter how big or small your garden is, there are hundreds of ornamental grasses and grass-like plants to choose from. The choices can be dizzying.

It should come as no surprise that the ornamental grass movement coincided with a growing awareness in America of the harmful ecological consequences of conventional turf grass. Lawns guzzle water and their care pollutes the environment. Every day in the Los Angeles basin, 22 tons of air pollution are generated from mowers, blowers and edgers. Ornamental and native grasses offer an Earth-friendly alternative to turf. Sedges and grasses are equally beautiful, if not more so than lawns, consume less resources and now are readily available.

Groundcover sedges like *Carex pansa* (California meadow sedge) form a fine "lawn," resembling the native landscape that existed before California was populated by millions of people. If you don't need a lawn, why not plant a meadow instead? Drought tolerant meadows can be more attractive than lawns, and are better for the environment as well as your pocket book. Grasses

and sedges like *Carex divulsa* (Berkeley sedge) and *Festuca mairei* (atlas fescue) can make well-behaved meadows that are naturalistic and easy to maintain.

Early Missteps

Western gardeners faced a learning curve as they began to use hundreds of varieties of ornamental grasses. Many of the grasses that first appeared on the scene proved unsuitable for several reasons. For example, some grasses that originated in northern latitudes did not thrive in California's alkaline soils and hot, dry summers. We learned that they needed a winter chill or vernalization, to thrive. Japanese blood grass, for example, needs cold winter temperatures to grow properly, which makes it a poor choice for Southern California gardens.

With trial and error, it also became apparent that many grasses are short-lived. The New Zealand sedges like *Carex comans* (New Zealand hair sedge) and *Carex flagellifera* are good examples of short-lived grasses that are excellent as accents and fillers that will need replacement after two or three seasons.

Another problem was that many of the new grasses proved to be wicked re-seeders and potential threats to native ecologies. Some *Pennisetums*, like *Pennisetum villosum*, fall into this category. These grasses can be replaced by non-threatening varieties like *Pennisetum spathiolatum* and *Pennisetum 'Fairy Tails'*, which are seed sterile and good garden citizens.

An Introduction to Proven Plants

Having grown and planted grasses since 1987, we at Greenlee Nursery are thrilled that ornamental and native grasses have come of age. Though the art and science of making meadows and natural lawns is still relatively new, grasses will only become more important to California gardeners as the need grows for water conservation, sustainable land use and the preservation of bees and other beneficial pollinators.

Phleum nodosum

The grasses listed in the sections below are some of the best grasses for California. Some are lawn substitutes, some are meadow grasses and some are good garden accents. All are non-invasive, well-behaved and long-lived in garden settings. These grasses have proved themselves in gardens from San Diego to Sacramento and beyond. Why not try them in your garden? You may have to track them down at specialty nurseries but they'll be worth the trouble. Good, independent retail nurseries know where to order grasses if they are not in stock.

The Natural Lawn and Meadow Grasses

Carex pansa

(California meadow sedge, Sunset Zones 5-10, 14-23)

This creeping evergreen native sedge grows four to eight inches high and makes a fine natural lawn or meadow groundcover. Drought tolerant, it can make a lawn that needs only four or five mowings a year. In most California gardens, it thrives with once-a-week watering after it is established. This is the best and toughest native lawn in our nursery. It grows best in full sun or part shade and can tolerate a wide variety of soils. Plant from plugs or pots 12 inches on center.

Carex remota

(European meadow sedge, Sunset Zones 5-10, 14-23)

A great evergreen groundcover grass for low meadows, this medium-green Sedge grows 12 to 16 inches high and wide in sun or shade, and is tolerant of a wide variety of soils. Plant from plugs or pots 12 to 18 inches on center.

Carex divulsa

(Berkeley sedge, Sunset Zones 5-10, 14-23)

This is one of our go-to ground cover grasses for making meadows. Dark green lustrous foliage grows in sun or shade, and almost any kind of soil. It also tolerates tree root competition and is an excellent replacement for a failing lawn. Evergreen in most gardens, it turns coppery colors in colder climates. Plant from plugs or pots 12 to 18 inches on center.

Carex texensis

(Catlin sedge, Sunset Zones 5-10, 14-23)

This is a great grass for making natural lawns in shady situations. Growing four to six inches high, it tolerates tree root competition. Best in the shade, it can accept more sun by the coast. Clumping foliage is evergreen in most California gardens. Plant from plugs or pots six to eight inches on center.

Sesleria autumnal

(Autumn moor grass, Sunset Zones 5-10, 14-23)

This evergreen clumping grass with dependable yellow-green foliage is one of the best groundcover grasses for meadow making. Growing 8 to 12 inches high, it is tidy throughout the year. Flowers are noticeable but never messy. Best in full sun to part shade, it thrives in a wide variety of soils. Plant from plugs 8 to 12 inches on center.

Festuca mairei

(Atlas fescue, Sunset Zones 5-10, 14-23)

This evergreen clumping grass is the workhorse of our large-scale meadows. A rich khaki green, it makes a great groundcover.



Festuca mairei

Grows two to three feet high in full sun to part shade. Flowers are noticeable but not showy. Plant from plugs 18 to 24 inches on center.

Bouteloua gracilis

(Blue grama grass, Sunset Zones 5-10, 14-23)

This is one of California's most versatile native-grasses. Growing 6 to 12 inches high, it can make a lawn or a meadow and has showy flowers most of the year. As a warm season grower, it does go dormant in the winter. Still, it has winter appeal and gets green quickly in the spring. Tolerates a wide variety of soils and even desert heat, and is best in full sun. Extremely drought tolerant and is easily grown from seed. Plant from plugs 8 to 12 inches on center.

The Flowering Grasses

Pennisetum 'Fairy Tails'

('Fairy Tails' fountain grass, Sunset Zones 5-11, 14-23)

This great new Fountain Grass is a sterile hybrid that occurred in our Nursery. The plant has blue-green foliage and is evergreen in mild climates. Growing in tidy clumps, two to three feet high, it is topped by 18 to 24 inch tall showy flowers that emerge in spring. The pinkish-cream colored flowers are showy well into fall. Great in groups or as a specimen, it is not fussy about soil and it's best in full sun with regular water. Plant from pots two to three feet on center.

Phleum nodosum

(Italian timothy, Sunset Zones 5-10, 14-23)

Finally, a showy flowering grass that is compact and drought tolerant, with evergreen foliage that grows in neat clumps six to eight inches high and wide. Showy, slender flowers emerge gray-green and dry to gold 6 to 10 inches above the leaves. Flowers emerge in spring and last into fall. Best in sun, plant from pots 8 to 12 inches on center.

Muhlenbergia dubia

(Pine muhly, Sunset Zones 5-10, 14-23)

This great new groundcover grass has evergreen, clumping gray-green foliage and showy slender flowers. Growing two to three feet high and wide, this plant is stunning in mass. The top half is see-thru and magical in late or early light. Drought tolerant, it's best in full sun. Tolerates a wide variety of soils. Plant from pots two to three feet on center.

Lygeum spartium

(Esparce grass, Sunset Zones 5-12, 14-23)

This evergreen, silver foliaged grass grows two to two and a half feet high and looks like a rush. Growing slowly and spreading in clumps, it is accented by curious, showy flowers resembling a bird of paradise with a fleck of cotton. Best in full sun, it takes heat and poor soils as well. Plant from pots 12 to 24 inches on center.

Background Grasses

Vetiveria zizanioides

(Vetiver, Sunset Zones 5-12, 14-23)

This amazing clumping grass has evergreen foliage that grows in upright clumps four to five feet high. Winter foliage blushes red and curls at the tips like party favors. Tolerates heat and drought, and is useful for erosion control on steep slopes. It also tolerates heavy soils and coastal conditions. Plant from pots 12 to 36 inches on center.

Sporobolus wrightii

(Giant sacaton, Sunset Zones 5-12, 14-23)

A spectacular tall grass for background and screening with three to four foot tall foliage that is topped by two to three

foot tall golden flowers in summer and fall. Gray-green foliage is evergreen in mild climates. Heat and drought tolerant, it is stunning singularly or in groups. Plant from pots three to four feet on center.

Spartina bakerii

(Florida cord grass, Sunset Zones 5-10, 14-23)

This evergreen clumping grass makes a tall upright clump four to six feet high. Fine textured foliage looks good year round and makes a good screen or backdrop to a meadow. Slender flowers are noticeable but never messy. Best in full sun, it grows in sand or clay. Plant from pots three to five feet on center.

Kill Your Lawn

The most important step in growing a meadow is making sure your old lawn is dead. The following tips will help you successfully kill your lawn.

- Be sure the lawn is actively growing. It is best to kill a lawn in spring, summer and early fall.
- Water and fertilize the lawn for four to six weeks prior to killing.
- Use an ecologically friendly but powerful herbicide like Glycophosphate to kill stubborn lawns like Bermuda. Always follow label recommendations.
- Repeat this process at least three times on old established lawns. These are called grow-kill cycles. You need 60 to 90 days to do the job right!

Learn More

More information on these and other grasses can be found in my new book *The American Meadow Garden* to be published by Timber Press this fall and at the Greenlee Nursery website, www.greenleenursery.com.

Cover Photo: Rachel Cobb
Pennisetum setaceum 'Rubrum'

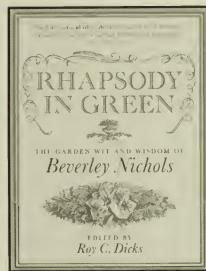
Tips for Planting Grasses

- Start with small plants whenever possible. Grasses grow quickly from small pots.
- Always keep newly planted grasses well watered until they're established. Even drought tolerant grasses cannot be allowed to dry out until they become well rooted, which can take four to six weeks. Once established, you can wean them off water.
- If you want grasses to grow, give them nitrogen. Fertilize new grasses every four weeks until they mature; then they may never need to be fed again. A good rule of thumb is five pounds of 16-6-8 or equivalent per 1,000 square feet.
- To get creeping natural lawn and meadow grasses to fill in, cut or mow them every four to six weeks to half their height. Mowing promotes tillering, or the production of side shoots.
- Finally, always try to plant flowering grasses where late and early light will backlight their foliage and flowers. When grass flowers are backlit and swaying in the breeze, you'll truly understand their seductive magic.

Reviews

All of the books reviewed in *California Garden* are part of the San Diego Floral Association Library collection (located in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA). Come, browse—and if you're a SDFA member—check them out!

Rhapsody in Green: The Garden Wit and Wisdom of Beverley Nichols



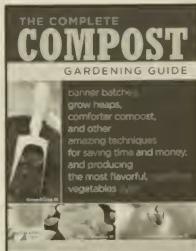
By Beverley Nichols and
Roy C. Dicks
Timber Press
\$18 (Hardcover); 136 pages

If you haven't read any of Beverley Nichols books, this is a good place to start. It is a selection of quotes from his many garden books set in England, that are joyfully humorous as well as educational. This pocket-sized book can be opened at any page for a chuckle while relaxing in the garden.

An example of Nichols wisdom: "To dig one's own spade into one's own earth! Has life anything better to offer than this?" An example of his wit: "I shall probably go bankrupt with my tastes. But I would rather be made bankrupt by a bulb merchant than by a chorus girl!" It just goes on and on!

Some sample chapter titles include, "Paying the Piper," "Enemies Within the Gates," "A Cultivated Climate" and "Domestic Affairs." The later is my favorite chapter because it is partially about cats in the garden. Of furry friends in the garden, Nichols says, "There were several reasons why it was impracticable to attempt to grow flowers on the top of the wall. There were, in fact, seventeen reasons, some black, some tabby and two ginger."

I urge readers to come into the Floral Library and read a few pages of *Rhapsody in Green*. You may become so intrigued that you'll take home another Nichols' gem, *Down the Garden Path*. —Jeanette Dutton



The Complete Compost Gardening Guide

By Barbara Pleasant and Deborah L. Martin
Storey Publishing
\$20 (Paperback); 320 pages

Composting has become mainstream. At least, it certainly feels that way. Once the solitary domain of farmers, communes and hardcore gardeners, chic stainless steel composting pails are now featured on Crate & Barrel bridal registries and urban websites show big-city apartment dwellers how to compost in their small spaces. Composting is cool.

Pleasant and Martin have taken advantage of this swell in composting curiosity by publishing an informative guide that should go a long way to helping nudge even the most dubious gardeners into setting up their own piles.

The book hits the ground running. On the seventh page the authors admit that they are going to use terms that may not be familiar to the average gardener, and they are unapologetic about the readers' need to learn these terms quickly in order to get the most out of their advice. The glossary, therefore, is often referenced; thank goodness the definitions are clear and concise. The authors also seem to assume in many places that the reader already has experience composting. This would put some off, if the book weren't so well organized and the content so accessible. Even black-thumb newbies can find the information they need to get started without getting overwhelmed by the more advanced info included alongside.

The advice offered is often hardcore; some may find it to be unrealistic. The authors advocate techniques such as Grow Heaps, in which special, open compost piles double as planting beds, and they strongly advocate keeping your compost in—or as close to—the garden as possible, though a pile is not exactly the most attractive garden feature. However, the advice that is "too much" is easy to ignore as readers soak in more attainable words of wisdom.

I was happy to see that basic concepts, like what can and cannot go in your compost from your kitchen, are balanced by more complex concepts, like brewing compost tea. One of my favorite aspects of the book was all the tangential information that is offered up. It's not just about the direct act of composting; indirect actions like how to rake up leaves are also covered. Also of great interest is how compost benefits specific crops. The section will likely inspire some to try crops they had never tried growing before.

And what if after all of this you're still not interested in creating your own compost pile? The book also has recommendations for how to buy the best compost, with an emphasis on locally-created products. —Amy R. Wood

Success with Water-Saving Gardens; Success with Sun-Loving Plant; Success with Roses

By Graham Clarke

Guild of Master Craftsman Publications
\$15 each (Paperback); 156 pages



Colorful and informative, these compact volumes are part of a series authored by one of Britain's foremost garden writers and gardeners, Graham Clarke. (He once looked after the Queen's garden at Buckingham Palace.) Each book begins with basic elements, such as the importance of water or the effect of sun on plants or simply how to use roses in the garden. Soil content and preparation are described in detail, as are the nuts and bolts of garden design for maximizing the effects of sun, light shade and water conservation.

Color photos and drawings enhance the text, which in all three books provides detailed information about planting and maintenance. Although the author is most focused on four-season gardening, it is plain that the needs of Mediterranean-type plants have gained a foothold in his native land. He is very keen on composting and various kinds of mulch, but his preference for chemical sprays suggest that he has yet to embrace organic gardening.

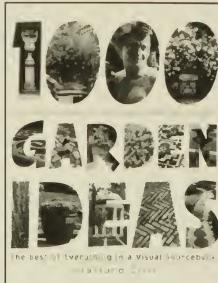
Probably the book on water-saving gardens would be of most interest to local gardeners. It includes extensive descriptions of container gardening, lawn care and ideas for kitchen gardens. Planting techniques are emphasized in the sun-loving plant book. All three books are completed by illustrated plant directories. The rose plant directory is the most extensive, with descriptions of each rose's origin and parentage, climate zone, bloom, foliage, height and spread.

These books offer good advice and guidance. Plus the color photos of gardens more casual than what are usually found in English garden books help make this series inspiring and encouraging for gardeners anywhere.
—Marge Howard-Jones

1000 Garden Ideas: The Best of Everything in a Visual Sourcebook

By Stafford Cliff

Artisan
\$35 (Hardcover); 208 pages



Is your garden stuck in a rut? You just might need to consult Stafford Cliff's *1000 Garden Ideas: The Best of Everything in a Visual Sourcebook* for some inspiration. Cliff, a landscape designer and gardener, collects observations from over 40 years of work and shares them in this illustrated guide.

The author argues that plants are often the least of most gardeners' worries, and that it is the design of a garden and utilization of garden features (like statues, fountains, etc.) that can cause otherwise decisive gardeners distress. With this book, Cliff hopes to help open up new avenues of thought about things as seemingly banal as garden steps, and encourage gardeners to be brave in using design and features in their gardens.

Flipping through the book is like taking a drive through a well-maintained neighborhood. Spreads are covered in collages of pictures of everything from gates to bridges. Options you may have never even considered are situated next to more traditional offerings. It is a fun visual journey.

Each section is accompanied by a brief essay, in which Cliff goes over the different options for each garden feature, explaining why you might want to choose something other than the trusty old terracotta pot, or why you might want to include a pergola in your yard. While a little light on written wisdom, the images more than make up for it and can provide a spark to try something new. —Elizabeth V. Phillips

New to the Library

- *Water-Lilies and How to Grow Them: With Chapters on the Proper Making of Ponds and the Use of Accessory Plants* (Doubleday, 1907) By Henry S. Conard and Henri Hus
- *The Principles of Gardening: A Guide to the Art, History, Science and Practice of Gardening* (Simon & Schuster, 1979) By Hugh Johnson
- *The Garden as Fine Art: From Antiquity to Modern Times* (Houghton Mifflin Co., 1978) By F.R. Cowell
- *Gardening 101* (Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, 2000) By Martha Stewart
- *Specialty Gardens* (Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 1992) By Theodore James Jr.
- *Inspired Flower Arrangements* (Kodansha International, 1990) By Toshiro Kawase

Now is the time

Timely tips to
keep your plants
happy throughout
July and August

African Violets

Barbara Conrad, Carlsbad African Violet Society

- Keep room temperature for African Violets between 60 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Use a camelhair brush to gently remove dust and pet hair from leaves.
- In hot weather mist plants with very warm water and blot the centers dry.
- Inspect outer leaves for powdery mildew. Rinse leaves, then rub lightly under running water and pat dry. Try to provide more air circulation to prevent another outbreak.
- Violets with long petioles are not getting enough light. They are less likely to bloom often.

Begonias

Doris Smith, Alfred D. Robinson Begonia Society

- Remove dead leaves, old flowers and other debris.
- Pot rooted cuttings in light porous soil.
- Check begonias for pests and disease.
- Feed tuberous plants.
- For continued blooms fertilize all plants.

Bonsai

Kora Dalager, San Diego Bonsai Club

- Turn trees for even sun exposure.
- Inspect bonsai and adjust watering to weather conditions. Try to water early in the day or in the late afternoon on hot dry days.
- Pinch back junipers and deciduous trees.
- Give blooming bonsai a dose of zero nitrogen fertilizer in August to promote blooms for next year.
- In general, use lower nitrogen fertilizers as the year progresses.
- Watch trees for insects. Spider mites love junipers and pines.
- Treat mite infestations aggressively; hose the foliage daily.
- July is the latest month for defoliating deciduous trees. Place the defoliated trees in the shade and water less often.

Bromeliad

Mary Siemers, Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

- Keep bromeliads in shade or under shade cloth but provide lots of light for best color and conformation.



Photo: Robert C. Osh

- Bromeliads absorb moisture and nutrients through their leaves. Water by spraying the entire plant. Do not over-water, so as to prevent soggy roots.
- Spray with a water-soluble high acid fertilizer once a month. Only use one-half of the amount recommended on the label. Bromeliads do not like fish emulsion.
- Use a granular slow time-release fertilizer every three months. Spread one teaspoon of fertilizer over the growing medium for each six-inch pot.
- You can create new plants from sets (pups) when they are one-third to one-half the size of the mother plant. Warm weather encourages good root growth.
- Always provide good drainage.

Cacti and Succulents

Joyce Buckner, The Plant Man Nursery in Old Town

- Establish new or young plants with frequent watering. Plants with non-succulent leaves such as *Euphorbia milii* (Crown of Thorns) and most cacti benefit from thorough summer watering. Allow soil to become almost dry between watering. Be sure to water early in the morning to allow the plant to dry during the heat of the day.
- Potted plants that are allowed to remain completely dry for a long time can lose their root mass. Drench occasionally to keep salts from accumulating in the potting soil.
- Pots with very dark or black glazing get extremely hot in the sun. Keep potted succulents in part shade/part sun areas.
- Newly purchased, transplanted or moved plants are vulnerable to sunburn. This first appears as bleaching on the exposed side and can develop into a permanent scar. Water on leaves

can also cause leaves to burn in the sun. Use a shade cloth or cheesecloth to protect plants from intense sun or to acclimate to new locations.

- Use a light application of a balanced fertilizer (15-15-20) for your warm weather feedings. Apply at one-quarter the recommended strength every third or fourth watering.
- Remove dead leaves and debris. Pull all weeds.
- A powerful blast of water from the hose will deal with most aphids, mealy bugs, worms or other critters this time of year. Use borax chalk to stop the ants. Watch out for snails—they like wet leafy places.

Camellias

Sharon Lee, San Diego Camellia Society

- July is the time for the last of the three annual fertilizer applications. The easiest way to remember the dates is St. Patrick's Day, Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. Mix blood meal with cottonseed meal at a ratio of one part blood meal to four parts cottonseed. Use one tablespoon for a gallon-sized plant and up to two cups for very large in-ground plants. It is also recommended to add chelated iron at this time. You can also use a pre-mixed camellia/azalea fertilizer. Follow application rates on the container. If you missed the first and second applications, just start feeding now.
- Keep camellias watered. While camellias are not water-hungry, they don't like to dry out. Regular watering is the best practice. Inconsistent watering is the primary cause of bud drop during the bloom season. Deep watering a few times throughout the year to flush accumulated salts from the Colorado River water is also a good idea.
- Mulch plants to conserve water and keep roots moist. Camellias have shallow root systems, and mulching helps to keep these shallow roots moist. It is critical, however, to keep the mulch two or so inches away from the trunk. Camellias do not like the immediate area around their trunks covered.
- Be on the look out for insects. Hose off aphids. Check with the local Master Gardener hotline or a nursery for organic solutions to other insects. Camellias generally do not have many insect problems.

Dahlias

Dave Tooley, San Diego Dahlia Society

- Cut old blossoms back to the first leaves of the main stalk to prolong blooming.
- Disbud to encourage better blooms.
- Tie canes to stakes to prevent them from snapping off. Use a loop of string for each cane to secure to stake; each cane must be tied individually.
- Continue to water regularly.
- Spray insects and mildew; control snails and slugs.
- Feed with a 5-10-10 fertilizer.
- Place cut blooms immediately in water. Cut only in the late afternoon or early morning.

Epiphyllums

Phil Peck, San Diego Epiphyllum Society

- Repot plants that show signs of needing new potting mix. Start new plants from cuttings during the warm weather, to establish new growth for the growing season.
- Plants need filtered sunlight and good air movement. Keep out of direct summer sun.
- Remove spent blooms and unwanted "apples" to conserve the plant's vitality.
- Water hybrids during the hot summer months, spray or mist occasionally. Do not allow soil to dry out.
- Continue pest and disease prevention regimes. Use summer horticultural oils for scale. Bait for slugs and snails.
- Fertilize regularly for new growth.

Ferns

Bob Halley, San Diego Fern Society

- Most ferns are in full growth now; water frequently to keep up the humidity.
- Keep removing old fronds.
- Fertilize with slow release pellets or half-strength, high-nitrogen liquid fertilizer.
- Spread bait as needed for snails and slugs. Control for aphids, thrips and scale. Treat for giant whiteflies by wiping off waxy spirals that often hold eggs.
- Collect and sow spores.
- Protect plants from the hot sun.

San Diego Horticultural Society

Meetings 2nd Monday of each month

6 - 9 pm ♦ Exciting Meetings - Everyone Welcome!
Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds

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UPCOMING MEETINGS:

July 13: Plants for Drier Gardens

Horticulturist Mary Irish will provide a thoughtful review of woody plants and perennials that thrive on minimal watering, even in the summer, and provide ample beauty, structure and color in the garden. Members free, non-members \$5.

August 10: Special Event to Honor Steve Brigham,

2009 Horticulturist of the Year

Steve Brigham is a founder of the SDHS, a widely respected horticulturist and nurseryman, and the author of *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates*. We'll honor him at a Special Event at Quail Botanical Gardens - visit our website for details.

Info: sdhortsoc.org or (760) 295-7089

Fruit Trees and Vines

Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticulture Advisor,
UC Cooperative Extension

- Monitor soil moisture within the root zone and irrigate when soil begins to dry.
- Periodically apply enough water to leach salts below the plant roots (three to four feet deep).
- Support limbs that have a heavy fruit load.
- Begin harvesting fruit as soon as it is ripe.
- Remove all fruit that is damaged or on the ground to discourage green fruit beetles and other insect scavengers.
- Prune out shoots killed by fire blight on pear, apple, quince and loquat. If possible make cuts at least 12 inches below the infected tissue. Be sure to disinfect pruning shears between cuts.
- Keep ants off trees. Periodically wash foliage with a forceful spray of water to promote biological control of spider mites, aphids, whiteflies, scale and other insects.
- Inspect new leaves for signs of zinc and iron deficiency (yellowing between the veins). Apply micronutrient spray if needed.
- Prune out blackberry and raspberry canes that have borne fruit.
- Watch for Diaprepes root weevil damage on citrus and other woody plants. Report suspected infestations to the Exotic Pest Hotline (800-491-1899). To see photos of the pest and damage visit www.cdfa.ca.gov and enter "Diaprepes" in the search box.

Herbs

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Deep water basil, mint, yerba mansa, gota kola, horsetail, comfrey and other water loving plants. Do not overwater your drought tolerant herbs such as rosemary, lavender, sage, thyme and aloe.
- Fertilize and amend the soil.
- Dry bundles of oregano, thyme, sage, lemongrass, lemon balm, raspberry leaf, feverfew, chamomile and stevia.



Photo: Rachel Cobb

Irises

Leon Vogel, San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

- Refresh iris beds. Dig over-crowded clumps. Divide and share rhizomes with friends.
- Add amenities such as fertilizer, peat moss, compost, gypsum and new topsoil to the beds.
- Rototil the soil well and allow the bed to stand for a week if possible before replanting.
- Iris can remain out of the ground three weeks or more before replanting.
- Plant rhizomes with the top quarter showing above the soil line—they need to breathe. Trim the roots back to one-half inch. They send out new roots within a few weeks.
- New beds need plenty of water.
- Irises are heavy feeders. Fertilize at least three times a year. Foliar feed in between.

Native Plants

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Let natives go into summer dormancy.
- Many established natives need little or no summer water but most are happier being watered once or twice a month. Spray the landscape by hose. It mimics a summer storm and washes the leaves clean. Do not put drip systems directly at the base of the plants.
- Prune shrub overgrowth from pathways.
- Lace out any dead wood on perennials, shrubs or trees such as toyon, lemonade berry, sumac and oak. Clean out annual flowers and grasses.
- Lightly mulch all bare soil areas.

Orchids

Christopher Croom, San Diego County Orchid Society

- Protect orchids from sunburn. Protect the more sensitive cloud forest orchids from heat and dryness by watering more often and providing more shade. Consider watering in the early evenings when the nighttime temperatures are above 65 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Plants are in active growth now; continue watering and fertilizing steadily.
- Add more moss to mounted plants that show signs of dehydration, wrinkled yellow leaves.
- Protect orchids from scale, aphids, mealy bugs, spider mites and other sucking insects by using an insecticidal soap or pesticide.

Pelargoniums

Jim Zemcik, San Diego Geranium Society

- Avoid unnecessary pruning but continue to remove dead, old or damaged leaves.
- Watch for geranium rust in high humidity areas and treat appropriately. Deadhead as soon as blooms pass their peak.
- Do not let plants dry out. Water in the early morning or early evenings for the best results. Some plants such as Martha Washington (Regal) geraniums will quit blooming if allowed to become too dry. Avoid getting foliage wet.
- Use a good commercial fertilizer at two week intervals. Use at one-third to one-half of the label recommended strength.

- Budworms can become a problem; use a systemic insecticide for best results. Those using a bio product such as *B. thuringiensis* (BT) should spray every seven days. If not controlled budworm will eventually bore into the plant stems and this can lead to various rots, funguses and viral destruction of your plants. Follow manufacturers' recommendations and keep a steady, continuous prevention schedule.
- Protect plants from severe sun damage.
- Rotate plants to keep them well-shaped and covered with blooms.

Plumeria

Frank Zotter, Southern California Plumeria Society

- Plant cuttings that have calloused over for at least three weeks. Use quick draining soil such as cactus mix. Water well once, then do not water or feed until leaves are about one inch.
- Fertilize growing plants once a month with low nitrogen and high phosphorous fertilizer, using one tablespoon per gallon pot.
- When no moisture is present on the top two inches of a pot, water until it runs out the bottom. Use no saucers.
- Place nylon netting or stocking over seed pods to capture seeds when pods open.

Roses

Doug Kalal, San Diego Rose Society

- Give your roses a good soaking at least once a week—twice if possible during the summer.
- Deadhead early summer blooms. Prune roses at an outward facing five-leaf leaflet. Cut the stem far enough down the bush to support the next rose. At the same time remove any small growth in the center of the bush.
- In hot weather roses consume food faster. Use a one shot, slow release fertilizer in July. Follow the package directions.
- Add another inch of mulch.
- Kill aphids and spider mites with an upward blast of water from a water wand.

Rose



Summer Squash

Vegetables

**Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticulture Advisor,
UC Cooperative Extension**

- Make last planting of warm-season vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, corn, beans and summer squash) in July for fall harvest.
- Plant seed of cool crops (cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower) in August for winter harvest.
- Cover seed with floating row covers to protect young plants from insects.
- Withhold water from rhubarb and artichoke and allow plants to go dormant until fall.
- Control corn earworm. Apply Carbaryl (Sevin) or BT when silk fist emerges, then every three days until silk turns brown.
- Learn more about vegetable gardening at <http://vric.ucdavis.edu>.



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Help us keep membership costs down by
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Fax it to us at 619-232-5762 or mail it to:

SDFA, 1650 El Prado #105,

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Meadow Lands

A new garden creates a modern meadow with ornamental grasses

By Mary James

Memories of meadows can be magical. Perhaps it's a memory of rippling grasses and wildflowers that stretched before you after a steep hike. Or a vista down valley where sunlit wands of grasses seemed flecked with gold. Or the soft whisper of wind through tall grass beneath a moody winter sky.

These recollections can be especially poignant in urban and suburban Southern California, where grass has become synonymous with turf and perpetually green lawns. Today the graceful dance of grasses has been replaced the loud parade of mowers and blowers.

In recent years, thanks to pioneers like John Greenlee of Greenlee Nursery and others, ornamental grasses have been welcomed into gardens. Where space has allowed, these grasses sometimes have been massed to form modern meadows laced with flowers and edged with trees.

Now, as a new exhibit at The Water Conservation Garden demonstrates, a "meadow" is an option for gardens of all sizes. On a 900 square foot plot, near the irrigation exhibit, the garden's horticulture manager Paul Redeker has shaped undulating ribbons of eight kinds of grasses and grass-like sedges into a sickle-shaped meadow.

Greenlee, North County horticulturist Nan Sterman and John Holt of South Bay's Recon Natives Nursery (www.reconnativeplants.com) were advisors on the project, the latest addition to the four-acre water wise demonstration garden on the campus of Cuyamaca College in El Cajon. Greenlee and Holt donated grasses, and Jim Threadgill of Easy to Grow Bulbs ([www.easytogrowbulbs.com](http://easytogrowbulbs.com)) donated South African bulbs that stud the meadow with spring and summer flowers.

At a dedication ceremony in mid-May, Sterman, who teaches the garden's popular "Bye Bye Grass" classes, said she's often accused of hating grass. "It's not grass," she explained, "it's lawn I don't like. It's too resource intensive. You water it a couple of times a week and fertilize it regularly. You prune it weekly—that's what mowing is—generally with a gas-powered mower that contributes to greenhouse gases and global warming. Then the clippings are too often hauled off to the dump to be processed, all with fossil fuel-using, greenhouse gas-generating vehicles. It just makes no sense."

When students in her classes eliminate their lawns and ask for advice on replacement plantings, Sterman says she often suggests a meadow. "It can be any size and it requires far less maintenance and water. And you have all kinds of grass options—small or tall, and colors ranging from green to red, blue, brown and gray."

While Paul Redeker appreciates the untamed beauty of a wild meadow, he said he wanted to create a more controlled, aesthetically-pleasing garden, a goal echoed by Greenlee during a

visit to the garden last October. "If I had gotten all wild and crazy with the design, it might look as though it was an overgrown bed we needed to weed," Redeker said. "I felt it needed to be neat and clean to maintain the design and shape while still having a lush meadow feel. I guess you could say I like controlled chaos."

The swathes of grasses, Redeker said, suggest "waves, probably reflective of our nearness to the ocean." Contrasting colors (from toffee brown to bubble-gum pink), a variety of textures and stair-stepped heights also were a focus of his design.

Before the meadow could be planted, Redeker had to remove a stubborn patch of Bermuda grass on the site. That step, undertaken last summer when the warm-season grass was growing, took weeks to accomplish.

Next, compost from the garden's compost pile was worked into the soil and an overhead irrigation system added. "That method of irrigation gave us the flexibility to experiment with bulbs without disturbing the watering system," Redeker said.

In November, with help from garden docents, Redeker then planted plugs of the chosen grasses and the bulbs, including Freesias, Watsonia, naked lady (*Amaryllis belladonna*) and red hot poker (*Kniphofia*). The garden was watered in the early morning a couple times a week until the plants became established and drought tolerant. Now, for the most part, watering has been reduced to weekly.

The chosen grasses, all labeled in the Garden's meadow with botanical and common names, had to be readily available to the public, Redeker emphasized. The majority originated in Mediterranean-style climates like San Diego, where winters are mild, summers are hot and dry and what rain the area gets falls in the winter.

The Water Conservation Garden meadow includes the following:

- *Carex pansa* (California meadow sedge): This California native grows six to eight inches high. It tolerates some foot traffic and is often recommended as a lawn substitute or for planting between pavers and stepping stones. Slender blades are turf green. Can be mowed.
- *Carex albula* ('Frosty Curls' curly sedge): The clumping sedge is prized for its arching iridescent frosted blue blades that seem metallic in the sun. Grows to 12 inches tall in sun or shade. "Comb" occasionally to remove spent foliage.
- *Carex comans* ('Bronze' New Zealand hair sedge): This graceful sedge proves Greenlee's assertion that brown is color for gardens. Fine caramel-hued leaves form clumps up to 18 inches high. Can self-sow.
- *Carex buchananii* (Leather leaf sedge): Erect leaves with

curled tips in a eye-catching reddish brown often described as milk chocolate have made this sedge a garden favorite. The New Zealand native grows to two feet tall and wide. Full sun along the coast; some shade inland.

- *Lygeum spartium* (Espartero grass): Native to the Mediterranean region, this silver-blue grass with its reed-like blades grows to three feet tall and wide. Unique flowers often are said to resemble tiny origami birds. Full sun with some shade inland. Used for rope-making and other crafts.
- *Muhlenbergia capillaris* (Pink muhly): Dark green leaves in a clump three feet tall form a base for showy flowers on the East Coast native grass. Wispy flower plumes in cotton candy-pink tower 30 inches above the foliage in fall. Refresh after bloom by cutting back.
- *Pennisetum setaceum* ('Rubrum' purple fountain grass): Showy clumps five feet tall and wide of this tropical African grass have burgundy leaves and rosy flower plumes that fade to khaki. Extremely drought tolerant, it dies back in winter. Cut off seed heads to prevent self-sowing. Avoid planting the invasive *m Pennisetum setaceum* or green fountain grass.

Freesias add spring color to the new meadow of ornamental grasses at The Water Conservation Garden.

Photo: Paul Reckler

• *Helictotrichon sempervirens* (Blue oat grass): Another Mediterranean-region native, this graceful grass form two to three foot tall clumps with sprays of sea blue narrow leaves. Spring bloom features tall stems with oat-hued papery flowers. Evergreen. Prefers full sun and well-draining soil.

In the few months since it was planted, the young garden has started to fill in. Because the bulbs were planted late in the season, Reckler doesn't expect some to bloom until next spring. In late winter or early spring, he expects to "refresh" the planting patterns by cutting the grasses back and removing scattered seedlings. This step is optional, however, for home gardeners.

The Water Conservation Garden's summer hours through August are Tuesday through Sunday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Wednesday until 7 p.m.; the garden is closed on Monday. Starting in September, hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Admission is free. Docent-led tours are held on Saturday mornings and by appointment. More information including dates for Sterman's and other classes is at www.thegarden.org.



Water Smarts

The Water Conservation Garden leads the way to waterwise gardening

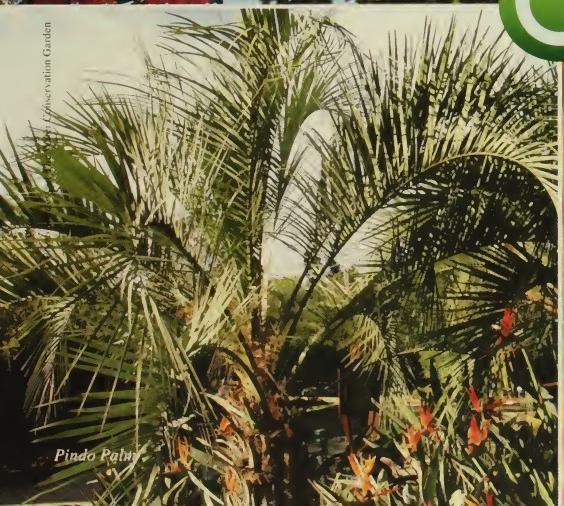
Water is, and always will be, the number one issue for San Diego gardeners. For a decade now, The Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College in El Cajon (www.thegarden.org) has been the go-to place for water-smart ideas and information. An update of an educational plant list and a hotline for water-saving advice—all detailed below—continue that role. Plus, in a Garden Conversation, Horticulture Manager Paul Redeker shares his passion for drought-tolerant gardening.



Crape Myrtle Tree



Palo Verde



Pindo Palm



Kangaroo Paw



Nifty 50

Updated plant list is a water-wise gardener's dream team

By Mary James

The Nifty 50 is a list of drought-tolerant plants that thrive in San Diego's Mediterranean-style climate. It was compiled by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in 2001 and updated in 2006 by the diligent staff at The Water Conservation Garden.

Earlier this year, it was revised again, this time by group of San Diego plant experts brought together by the Conservation Garden's executive director Marty Eberhardt and its horticulture manager Paul Redeker.

"It was a good list that we felt could be made even better," says Redeker. "It reflects a lot of experience with plants and gardening here. We think it will be useful to home gardeners as well as contractors and homeowner associations."

In addition to Eberhardt and Redeker, committee members included Dave Erhlinger, director of horticulture at Quail Botanical Gardens (www.qbgardens.org); Suzie Wiest, general manager of Miramar Wholesale Nursery (www.miramarnurseries.com); Walter Andersen Jr. of Walter Andersen Nursery in Point Loma and Poway (www.walterandersens.com) and Nan Sterman, horticulturist and author.

The group held considered plants to a high standard. All had to be attractive in the landscape, non-invasive, generally available at retail nurseries, long-term performers in the garden, scaled for residential landscapes and drought-tolerant after established.

In addition, the advisory group strove to provide specific species when large plant families like sages, California lilac or Penstemon were listed. "For some genera, it's fine to generalize," Redeker says. "But in other cases it just wasn't helpful. When you go into a nursery, you may see a dozen sages or Penstemons. We wanted to help gardeners make an informed choice."

The updated list, which ranges from groundcovers to trees, could be used to create a garden that is not only waterwise, but also beautiful, Sterman adds. "We emphasized color and year-round landscape interest," she says. "We also want types of plants that were familiar as garden plants rather than those you might see on a hike."

Copies of list are available at The Water Conservation Garden and on its website, www.thegarden.org, as well as on the San Diego County Water Authority's website, www.sdcwa.org. In addition, all of the Nifty 50 plants are displayed and labeled at The Water Conservation Garden's five-acre demonstration

garden. Here are eight great plants selected by Redeker from the new additions to the Nifty 50 list.

- **Kangaroo Paw** (*Anigozanthos*): The fuzzy "paw-shaped" flowers in shades of red, pink and gold on long strong stems make a bold statement in the garden. Sunlovers native to Australia, there are many hybrids available in various heights and widths.
- **Monkey Flower** (*Mimulus* species and hybrids): California natives, these shrubby perennials produce sunset-hued flowers in spring, and often again in fall. Flower colors range from white and cream to gold, coppery orange and burgundy. Grows one to four feet tall.
- **Autumn sage** (*Salvia greggii*): A Southwest native, this shrubby sage comes in a host of colors, including white, hot pink, raspberry and pure red. Tiny flowers are borne at the end of stems with glossy leaves. Needs afternoon shade in hottest areas.
- **Pink Muhy** (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*): In late summer, this grass is topped by delicate cotton-candy pink flowers that dance in the breeze. Evergreen in mild areas, you'll need to cut it back in winter to stimulate new spring growth.
- **Pindo Palm** (*Butia capitata*): Blue-toned leaves that arch gracefully have made this South American native popular in the landscape. Grows 10 to 15 feet tall and wide. Spikes of yellow flowers are followed by red and yellow fruits in summer.
- **Crape Myrtle Tree** (*Lagerstroemia indica*): This medium-sized deciduous tree is covered with flowers in early summer. Attractive bark and fall color add to its appeal. Flower colors range from classic pinks to the white, coral and lavender blooms on new hybrids.
- **'Desert Museum' Palo Verde** (*Cercidium*): Tough and trouble-free, this tree has beautiful form and texture. Blooms in spring when green stems are covered with yellow flowers. Thornless, it grows to 20 feet tall.
- **Yellow Orchid Vine** (*Mascagnia macroptera*): Native to Mexico, this vine bears bright yellow flowers in late spring and early summer. Yellow-green seedpods that follow are said to resemble butterflies. It grows to 15 feet tall.



Water Wisdom

Answering San Diego's water questions

by Nan Sterman

The Water Smart Pipeline is a telephone hotline (866-962-7021) for low water gardening questions, through The Water Conservation Garden and sponsored by a grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust. The Pipeline is answered by garden expert, journalist and designer Nan Sterman, author of *California Gardener's Guide, Vol. II*. Pipeline hours are Tuesdays 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Thursdays 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. We asked Sterman what The Pipeline's most commonly asked questions were, and she graciously not only provided us with the questions, but her expert answers.

Q: I am ready to go to the nursery, what plants should I buy?

A: This is a great time of year to ask questions about plants, but not a good time of year to be planting. Planting in the hot months is a huge challenge for drought tolerant plants. In the hot, dry air, plants lose lots of water from their leaves into the atmosphere. With new plants, their roots aren't established well enough to replace the water fast enough to keep up.

You can try irrigating, but it is a huge challenge to give plants enough to keep them going but not so much that they drown. The result is often wilted leaves and dried out roots. And, plants that go through that kind of stress may not live very long.

Wait instead until early fall. The air will be cooler so heat stress is far less but the soil is still warm enough for good root growth. And, once rains begin, you can let Mother Nature manage the irrigation.

So, rather than purchase plants now, take this time to research the plants that will work best for your situation. Prepare your garden beds, update your irrigation system, install walkways, repair decks and do everything necessary to be prepared for fall planting.

If you really need to get your hands in the dirt, focus your gardening activities on your summer vegetable garden.

Q: I tried planting drought tolerant plants but they all died. What happened?

A: Did you water the plants regularly after you planted them? All plants—drought tolerant or not—need regular, deep water for their first year or two in the ground in order to establish deep, healthy, resistant root systems. Keep plant roots moist but not wet during that establishment period. Then, cut back on how often you water, watering for the same number of minutes each time you irrigate.

Q: I keep seeing that we need to go to low-water plants but they look so brown and dry. Aren't there any pretty, low-water plants?

A: There are tons of beautiful low-water plants and several places to see them. The best example is The Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College in El Cajon. The garden is several acres of beautiful low water demonstration gardens.

While it can be a challenge to envision how a plant will look when you are seeing it in the nursery, at The Garden, you can see how those plants actually look in the ground, in a garden setting.

Another excellent example is the San Diego County Water Authority Building (www.sdcwa.org) in Kearny Mesa. This beautiful garden was designed by Pamela Homfelt and includes both succulent and non-succulent plants. Quail Botanical Gardens in Encinitas (www.qbgardens.org) also has displays of low-water plants and California natives as well as plants from Australia, South Africa and other Mediterranean climate regions of the world.



Garden Conversations: Paul Redeker

The Water Conservation Garden's Horticulture Manager shows *California Garden* readers the importance of using less water in their gardens

By Alyssa Holderbein

Paul Redeker has been involved with horticulture and landscape design since high school. He then went on to major in Horticulture at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with an emphasis in landscape design. Years later Paul landed at the Water Conservation Garden where his passion lies in showing the public ways to have beautiful landscapes without wasting water.

CG: Tell us a little about what you do at The Water Conservation Garden. How long have you worked there?

PR: I have been the horticulture and Facilities Manager for almost a year now. I manage two staff members, a group of docents and oversee the grounds including plants and landscape design, irrigation systems, building maintenance, etc.

CG: What is your favorite part of your job? Your least favorite part?

PR: I enjoy being a part of something more than just plants in the landscape and showing the public how plants affect our lives and environment. My least favorite part is running out of time in the day.

CG: What is the most commonly asked question about either your job and/or the garden?

PR: Mostly I get asked what plant can be used in every situation and where can I get one. The majority of the plants in the garden can be found at local nurseries.

CG: What is the one water-wise suggestion that you wish every San Diego gardener followed?

PR: Know your irrigation system. So many people have an automatic irrigation system and just rely on it to do its thing. Everyone can optimize the efficiency of their irrigation system and minimize the amount of water put out.

CG: What is your favorite water-wise plant? Is it a native?

PR: Not fair. Okay, a native favorite would be of the genus Ceanothus, the California Wild Lilac. My Australian favorite genus would be Grevillea at the moment, and one of my favorite trees has always been the Chinese Pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*).

CG: What is your least favorite, commonly planted plant (a real water waster)? Is there an alternative plant that you'd suggest people who like this plant should plant instead?

PR: Many bedding plants like petunias need quite a bit of water but people like them because they have great color. I would use Lavender, Lantana or Bulbine as a replacement.

CG: Is there a particular irrigation system that you recommend above others? If yes, which system? If not, what is the most important thing about irrigation that you think SD gardeners need to know about?

PR: Irrigation is all about the distribution of water for each unique situation. The easiest answer to this question would probably be drip for trees and shrubs because there is minimal evaporation and it's very efficient if done correctly. Proper installation and regular system maintenance are important in every system.

CG: Is there a particular water-wise ground cover that you would recommend for anyone wishing to replace their lawn?

PR: No. I would consider a re-design. I suppose ice plant or Blue Fescue could be used but will probably be uneven and will not tolerate traffic.

CG: If giving a tour of The Water Conservation Garden, what is the first place you'd show off to visitors (a particular landscape that you think is interesting, for example)?

PR: It seems funny to go to a pipe to start a tour but most of San Diego's water is delivered through a pipeline system so I think it sends a strong message that we should use it wisely.

CG: What do you think is the biggest challenge facing SD gardeners as we face water rationing?

PR: If they have never taken a water-smart approach to their landscape it will be a challenge to keep that landscape green. I think we are in for some beautifully different looking landscapes in the future but it will just take a little time to learn some new techniques. Start with regular irrigation checks to look for over spray and repairs. That is the number one waste of water if you are not putting it where it needs to go. Then mulch two to three inches in planting beds and shrubbery.

SDFA Calendar

A listing of the best gardening-related activities in the county for July and August 2009

July Events

JULY 1

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR

Enjoy the Paul Ecke Jr. Flower and Garden Show: "Rhapsody in Bloom," as well as other events, competitions and cuisine.
When: Ongoing through July 5; visit website for dates and times
Where: Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar
More Information: www.sdfair.com

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING

All those with an interest in herbs are welcome.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 519-579-0222

JULY 7

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING

Come early for a novice classes at 6:30 p.m. in Room 104 and then stay for the general meeting at 7:30 p.m.
When: 7:30 p.m. (General Meeting)
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.sdorchids.com

JULY 8

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Come join the fun!
When: 9:30 a.m. Hospitality; 10:00 a.m. Meeting
Where: Bonita Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita
More Information: Darlene Montgomery, 619-267-1585, dmontg@live.com

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Come to this group's general meeting for fun and fellowship!
When: 9:00 a.m.
Where: Templar's Hall at Old Poway Park, Poway
More Information: 858-672-0459

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING

Join this society for instructional workshops and plant raffles.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.epiphyllum.com

JULY 11

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY PICNIC

Enjoy the SD Bromeliad Society's annual picnic in the park!
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.bsi.org

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING

Xerophytic plants are all the rage—come find out why!
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-795-1020, www.sdcss.com

JULY 12

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY MEETING

Scott Lawder will discuss, "Growing Plumerias in Cold Weather."
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: War Memorial Building, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.socalplumeriasociety.com

JULY 13

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

Mary Irish will discuss perennials, trees and shrubs.
When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar
More information: sdhortsoc.org

JULY 14

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK MEETING

Programs, friends and more!
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More Information: Chuck Lagin, BSGBP@cox.net

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING

The meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-447-8243, www.sdggeranium.org

JULY 16

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Come join in the fun!
When: 11:45 a.m.
Where: Norman Park Senior Center, 270 F St., Chula Vista
More Information: Marilyn Saleny, 619-656-8669

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING

Cultivate your knowledge of ferns.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-464-2609, www.sdfern.com

JULY 17

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, NORTH COUNTY CHAPTER MEETING

Learn about the rare fruits adaptable to this region.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Mirra Costa College Horticulture Bldg., Room 7003, Oceanside
More information: www.crfg.org/local.html



JULY 18

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW

Join the Orchid Society for their summer show in the park. Plant registration is Friday, July 17 from 6 p.m.–8 p.m. and Saturday, July 18 from 8 a.m.–10 a.m.
When: Open to the public 11:30 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sat., July 18), 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (Sun., July 19)
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More Information: www.sdorchids.com

JULY 21

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB MEETING

The La Jolla Garden Club welcomes new members!
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7111 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla
More Information: Fran Sheinbein, 858-488-5618

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Join this group for fun, friendship and gardening know-how!
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 1077 Vista Madera, El Cajon
Contact: Connie Beck, 619-749-4059

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING

Have that "mystery plant" identified at our monthly meeting.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
More information: 760-434-5033, www.cnpsd.org

JULY 22

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING

Improve your gardening skills with CRFG San Diego!
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More Information: David Yetz, 619-659-8788

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING

The Mission Hills Garden Club welcomes new members!
When: 6:00 p.m. Social; 6:30 p.m. Meeting and Speaker
Where: Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackshaw St., San Diego
More Information: www.missionhillsgardenclub.org

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Programs, friends and more!
When: 9:30 a.m. Social; 10:00 a.m. Meeting
Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More Information: Rita Koczela, President, 760-436-3036; www.sdgkmmicro.com

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"El Shackito" The Garden Shop, is coming along nicely..... lots of garden candy! (decorations) Stop in for a visit soon, we have lots & lots of lovely plants, & there's always something new & fun to see in the garden!



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San Diego County Orchid Society

Meetings are held the first
Tuesday of each month at the
Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park.

Novice Class:

6:30 PM, Room 104

General Meeting:

7:30 PM, Room 101

www.sdorchids.com

12755 Danielson Court
Poway, CA 92064
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FAX (858) 513-4790
Open 8-6, 7 days a week



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IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119 MEETING

Come and learn the art of Japanese flower arrangement!

When: 10:00 a.m.

Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More Information: 858-673-3535, hiropau@san.rr.com

JULY 23

CROWN GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Happy Birthday to the Crown Garden Club, founded July 30, 1959. Here's to 50 more!

When: 9:30 a.m.

Where: Winn Room, Coronado Library, 640 Orange Ave., Coronado

More Information: www.crowngardenclub.org

JULY 26

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY MEETING

Join this group to learn more about these fragrant plants.

When: 1:00 p.m.

Where: Room 102, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: 619-443-4795

JULY 27

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY MEETING

African Violets: Where watering is an art!

When: 10:30 a.m.

Where: Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista

More information: 760-295-0484

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB MEETING

Share the satisfaction of preserving native plants for future generations.

When: 2:00 p.m.

Where: Rancho Bernardo Library, 17110 Bernardo Ctr. Dr., Rancho Bernardo

More Information: www.lhnpc.org

JULY 28

BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Discuss natural gardening methods with this group.

When: 6:30 p.m.

Where: Bonita Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita

More information: 619-479-9838

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Enhance your community with the Fallbrook Garden Club.

When: 12:30 p.m.; Social; 1:00 p.m. General Meeting

Where: Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Herald Lane, Fallbrook

More Information: www.fallbrookgardenclub.org

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING

For the love of Dahlias!

When: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: 858-672-2593

August Events

AUGUST 1

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY MEETING

Come join the fun!

When: 10:00 a.m.

Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas

More information: 858-566-0503

AUGUST 4

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING

Admission is free and everyone is welcome!

When: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: www.sdochids.com

AUGUST 5

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING

Come join the fun!

When: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: 519-579-0222

AUGUST 8

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING

Learn about the Bromeliads of Southwest Brazil.

When: 10:00 a.m.

Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: www.bsv.org

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING

Lower your landscape water requirements and make friends too!

When: 1:00 p.m.

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: 619-795-1020, www.sdcass.com

AUGUST 9

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY MEETING

Richard Eggenberger, author of *The Handbook on Plumeria Culture* will be our guest speaker.

When: 1:00 p.m.

Where: War Memorial Building, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: www.socalplumeriasociety.com

AUGUST 10

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

A special event to honor Steve Brigham, Horticulturist of the Year.

When: 6:00 p.m.

Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar

More information: www.sdhortsoc.org

AUGUST 11

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK MEETING

Learn more about beautiful bromeliads.

When: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

More Information: Chuck Largin, BSGBP@cox.net

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING

A plant raffle and refreshments at every meeting.

When: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: 619-447-8243, www.sdgeranium.org

AUGUST 12

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Join them for their monthly meeting.

When: 9:30 a.m.; Hospitality; 10:00 a.m. Meeting

Where: Bonita Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita

More Information: Darlene Montgomery, 619-267-1585, dmontg@live.com

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Promoting beauty in Poway one garden at a time!

When: 9:00 a.m.

Where: Templar's Hall at Old Poway Park, Poway

More Information: 858-672-0459

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING

Workshops, plant raffles and lots of fun!

When: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: www.epiphyllum.com

AUGUST 13

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING

Come join the fun with fronds!

When: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: 619-464-2609, www.sdffern.com

AUGUST 15

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE

Learn more about ferns at the San Diego Society's Plant Show and Sale.

When: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Sat, August 15), 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Sun., August 16)

Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: 619-464-2609, www.sdffern.com

AUGUST 18

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Join us for our monthly meeting!

When: 1:30 p.m.

Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7111 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla

More Information: Fran Scheinbein, 858-488-5618

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Join us for fun, friendship and gardening know-how!

When: 10:00 a.m.

Where: 1077 Vista Madera, El Cajon

Contact: Connie Beck, 619-749-4059

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING

Sign up for new membership and receive a free plant!

When: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: 760-434-5033, www.cnpsd.org

AUGUST 20**CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING**

Join them for their monthly meeting

When: 11:45 a.m.

Where: Norman Park Senior Center, 270 F St., Chula Vista

More Information: Marilyn Saleny, 619-656-8669

AUGUST 21**CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, NORTH COUNTY CHAPTER MEETING**

Come for the fruit, stay for the friends!

When: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Mira Costa College Horticulture Bldg., Room 7003, Oceanside

More information: www.ccfg.org/local.html

AUGUST 24**CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY MEETING**

Learn to care for these soft little beauties!

When: 9:00 a.m.

Where: Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista

More information: 760-295-0484

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB MEETING

Native plants help save water!

When: 2:00 p.m.

Where: Rancho Bernardo Library, 17110 Bernardo Ctr. Dr., Rancho Bernardo

More Information: www.llnpsc.org

AUGUST 25**BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB MEETING**

Come join the fun!

When: 6:30 p.m.

Where: Bonita Library Community Room, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita

More information: 619-479-9838

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Encouraging scholarship and beauty in Fallbrook!

When: 12:30 p.m., Social; 1:00 p.m., General Meeting

Where: Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Herald Lane, Fallbrook

More information: www.fallbrookgardenclub.org

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING

Come, learn and join our club!

When: 7:30 p.m.

Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: 858-672-2593

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY

Join SDRS for the Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden Summer Tour.

When: 9:30 a.m.

Where: Inez Grant Parker Rose Garden, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: 619-462-5753, www.sdrsesociety.org

AUGUST 26**CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING**

Grow rare fruit, make rare friends.

When: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More Information: David Yetz, 619-659-8788

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Help us make Mission Hills more beautiful.

When: 6:00 p.m., Social; 6:30 p.m., Meeting and Speaker

Where: Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego

More Information: www.missionhillsgardenclub.org

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB MEETING

The San Dieguito Garden Club wants you!

When: 9:30 a.m., Social; 10:00 a.m., Meeting

Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas

More Information: Rita Koczela, President, 760-436-3036; www.sdg.klmicro.com

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119 MEETING

Flower arrangements and friends!

When: 10:00 a.m.

Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More Information: 858-673-3535, hiropan8@san.rr.com

AUGUST 27**CROWN GARDEN CLUB MEETING**

Celebrating 50 years of beauty in Coronado!

When: 9:30 a.m.

Where: Winn Room, Coronado Library, Coronado

More Information: www.crowngardenclub.org

Gardening Classes

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, PT. LOMA GARDENING CLASS

Learn a variety of gardening tricks every Saturday morning by attending a free class at Walter Andersen Nursery's Pt. Loma Nursery. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.

When: 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m., every Saturday

Where: Walter Andersen's Pt. Loma, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego

More Information: www.walterandersen.com

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, POWAY GARDENING CLASS

Come join others at Walter Andersen's Poway store for a free, weekly seasonal garden lecture. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.

When: 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m., every Saturday

Where: Walter Andersen's Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway

More Information: www.walterandersen.com

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN CLASSES

The Water Conservation Garden provides a number of entertaining, information-packed courses covering the most topical gardening topics and presented by skilled and knowledgeable experts. Please contact the Water Conservation Garden for program details and any applicable fees.

When: Contact for program-specific times.

Where: 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon

More Information: 619-660-0614, x10, www.thegarden.org

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- ♦ Event discounts
- ♦ Lending library: books & videos
- ♦ and much more!

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:****July 13: Plants for Drier Gardens**

Horticulturist Mary Irish will provide a thoughtful review of woody plants and perennials that thrive on minimal watering, even in the summer, and provide ample beauty, structure and color in the garden. Members free, non-members \$5.

**August 10: Special Event to Honor Steve Brigham,
2009 Horticulturist of the Year**

Steve Brigham is a founder of the SDHS, a widely respected horticulturist and nurseryman, and the author of *Ornamental Trees for Mediterranean Climates*. We'll honor him at a Special Event at Quail Botanical Gardens - visit our website for details.

Info: sdhortsoc.org or (760) 295-7089

Walks, Tours & Garden Events

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS TOUR

Come and meet up at the Visitor's Center for a weekly tour of the Quail Botanical Gardens. No reservations required. Free with admission.

When: 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m., every Saturday

Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas

More Information: [www.qbgardens.org](http://qbgardens.org)

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS: CHILDREN'S EVENTS

The Quail Botanical Garden offers a number of events specially designed to entertain and educate children and their caregivers. Please contact Quail Botanical Gardens for a complete listing of their scheduled events.

When: Ongoing—contact for program-specific times.

Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas

More Information: [www.qbgardens.org](http://qbgardens.org)

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN TOUR

Enjoy a docent-led tour of the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College.

When: Every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and every Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon

More Information: [www.thegarden.org](http://thegarden.org)

CNPS NATIVE PLANT WALK

Join landscape architect and member of the CNPS San Diego Chapter Kay Stewart for a two-hour, easy walk into Tecolote Canyon and back. Along the way you'll study and learn about the plants. This guided walk is free.

When: 9 a.m.–11 a.m., first Sunday of the month

Where: Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road, San Diego

More Information: <http://cnpsd.org>

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN

Come visit the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum's exquisite Asian garden.

When: 10:30 a.m.–4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; 12 p.m.–4 p.m., Sunday

Where: San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and Garden, 404 3rd Ave., San Diego

More Information: [www.sdchm.org/garden](http://sdchm.org/garden)

Balboa Park Events

SAN DIEGO ZOO

Visit the world famous San Diego Zoo for Plant Days and Orchid Odyssey.

When: 9 a.m.–4 p.m., third Friday of each month

Where: San Diego Zoo, 2920 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park, San Diego

More Information: [www.sandiegozoo.com](http://sandiegozoo.com)

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Enhance your well-being with a visit to this Japanese-style garden. There is a \$4 fee for adults, \$2.50 fee for Seniors (55+), children and military with I.D..

When: 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday

Where: San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Road, Balboa Park, San Diego

More Information: www.niwa.org

BALBOA PARK OFFSHOOT TOURS

Learn about Balboa Park's plants as volunteer horticulturists lead visitors on free, one-hour themed walks. (Inclement weather and low-turnout cancels the tour.)

When: 10 a.m., every Saturday

Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More Information: www.balboapark.org

BALBOA PARK INTERPRETIVE WALKS

Join volunteer-guides on this free, history-oriented walk through Balboa Park.

When: 1 p.m., every Tuesday

Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More Information: www.balboapark.org

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM CANYONEER WALKS

Join trained volunteer guides on a local canyon walks. There is a \$2 fee.

When: Times vary; check website for specific event details

Where: Locations vary; check website for specific event details

More Information: [www.sdnhm.org/canyoneers](http://sdnhm.org/canyoneers)

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Point Loma Gardens

Banker's Hill Gardens



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Mission Statement: To Promote The Knowledge And Appreciation Of Horticulture And Floriculture In The San Diego Region.

GENERAL MEETINGS

2009

February 17

April 21

June 16

October 20

Casa del Prado, Room 101

Balboa Park, San Diego

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San Diego, CA 92169-0424
858-576-3828
www.citybeautifulofsandiego.org

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President: Leslie Crawford
P.O. Box 180188
Coronado, CA 92118-0188
619-435-8079

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Laguna Beach, CA 92652-0742
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JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN BALBOA PARK

Contact: Luann Lao
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101-4792
619-232-2721
www.niwa.org

PALOMAR DISTRICT CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Director: Jerry Thirlaway
1105 Santa Madera Ct.
Solana Beach, CA 92078-1620
858-755-3284
www.geocities.com/pdgardenclubs

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS FOUNDATION, INC.

Executive Director: Julian Duval
P.O. Box 230005
Encinitas, CA 92023-0005
760-436-3036
info@qbgardens.org
www.qbgardens.org

SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION

President: Ed Hamilton
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101-4792
619-234 8901
www.sdbgf.org

Room 104, Casa del Prado,
Balboa Park

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN
Executive Director:
Alexander Chuang
404 Third Ave.
San Diego, CA 92101-6803
619-338-9888
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858-450-1769
sy@shcglobal.net
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San Diego, CA 92112-6127
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San Diego, CA 92195
619-659-8788
www.crfsandiego.org
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(except Nov. and Dec.) Room 101,
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, NORTH COUNTY CHAPTER

Contact: Ben Pierce
713 Ruskin Place
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760-412-9614
www.crfg.org/local.html
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619-294-5925
position_djb@juno.com
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ORGANIC

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619-741-8448
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<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sdwatergarden>
Meets third Sunday (Apr.–Oct.)
Call for meeting information.

Send changes to Affiliates Editor, *California Garden*, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684. Call 619-232-5762

Email: membership@sdfloral.org

September/October issue: July 10, 2009 Each affiliate group is entitled to a business-cardsized ad at half price. We can accept your designed ad (TIFF, JPEG or PDF files preferred).

In Season

Here are some items that you may find being sold from the stalls at your local Farmers' Market in July and August. (For more information on San Diego County Farmers' Markets, visit www.sdfarmbureau.org.)

July: Avocados, basil, beets, blackberries, boysenberries, cauliflower, celery, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, figs, grapes, grapefruit, green beans, guavas, herbs, lemons, limes, melons, onions, peaches, peppers, plums, potatoes, radishes, raspberries, scallions, summer squash, strawberries, sweet potatoes, tangelos, tomatoes, Valencia Oranges and various cut flowers.

August: Apples, avocados, basil, blackberries, boysenberries, cauliflower, celery, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, figs, grapes, grapefruit, green beans, guavas, herbs, lemons, limes, melons, onions, peaches, pears, peppers, plums, potatoes, raspberries, scallions, summer squash, strawberries, sweet potatoes, tangelos, tomatoes, Valencia Oranges and various cut flowers.



Red bell pepper

Contact Us!

Do you have an event, class or meeting that you'd like to let *California Garden* readers know about? If so, please email sdfloral@gmail.com or Denise Thompson at EarthD@san.rr.com with your group's name, the meeting date and time, meeting place, any applicable fees, event program and contact information. You may also submit the above information via regular mail, sent to Calendar Editor, San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado Room #105, San Diego, CA 92101. Space is limited, so please get in touch today to ensure inclusion! The deadline for the upcoming Sept/Oct 2009 issue is July 10, 2009; the deadline for the Nov/Dec 2009 issue is September 10, 2009.

Although taste may change from era to era, the principles of good design remain true. The San Diego Floral Association had an early tradition of annual spring garden competitions. Citizens proud of their gardens could submit their application for annual awards. Leaders in horticulture and landscaping, such as Roland Hoyt, judged the gardens. Although California was a leader in the outdoor living movement, he clearly considered the garden as a separate entity from the house, no matter how much time you spend there, but also believed in the importance that style of the house and garden complement one another for cohesive design. Hoyt's knowledge of plants that grow in the Southern California region was extensive and thorough. —Kay Harry

November 1937

Roland Hoyt on the Small Garden

At the October meeting Mr. Roland Hoyt, noted landscape architect, gave a very entertaining talk on the small garden. He approached the subject not in the orthodox manner but more of the sidelights of the subject of design as observed most particularly in our gardens during the recent garden contest, Mr. Hoyt serving as one of the judges in this competition.

"The term design," Mr. Hoyt says, "is best thought of as 'to designate.'" First we have the thought, then a picture on paper and finally an accomplished fact. So it is in the garden. You may think a garden just happens, few do. Always someone has given thought to the layout, good or bad, better doubtless if done on paper but in any event done on the ground in sticks and stones and growing plants.

Continuing, Mr. Hoyt says, "Now, one of the first concepts of a garden, especially the small garden, is that of a retreat, a refuge from the cares of the outside, a sanctuary, so to speak." Mr. Hoyt took exception to the too general term "outdoor living room" saying the garden is something more than just a continuation of the house. We have our living quarters inside and, while we may sojourn in the garden too, let's just call it a garden.

Of the time-honored and fundamental precepts underlying garden structure Mr. Hoyt just touched. "We all know of the formal and naturalistic as styles or modes, but few realize that a combination of the two is frequently quite desirable and especially in relating the garden to the house. A terrace of French windows, a long axis form an important door or window may lead somewhere to a permanent stopping-place and become so involved with the naturalistic portions as to bring about a more complete whole — house and garden. Woven into this are the principles of unity — oneness, coherence (does it hang together), transition (does the eye go from one part to another?), balance, either symmetrical or asymmetrical, and repetition.

Mr. Hoyt talked about hedges mentioning abelia as a particularly informal one, ground covers and sprawling shrubs, and plants in tubs and pots. Fragrance in the garden is particularly

California GARDEN

10c

NOVEMBER 1937

Well-Behaved Weeds
Pieter Smoor

•

Autumn Days
Denn Blake

•

Mexican Love Flowers
Dr. Imogene Bishop Walker

•

Trees
K. O. Sessions

important. For rock gardens he suggested we use more of the plants found in similar gardens of the Northwest and not quite so many succulent plants.

Lastly Mr. Hoyt spoke of the suggestive aspects of design, the use of the picturesque and the enlivening factors: light, movement and sound. —Mrs. Carolyn Ladd Lukehart



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